

International Agribusiness Center

Weekly Country Report, December 14-18, 2020

Compiled by Lindsey Sarbacker, Food Export Intern - IABC



USDA/Global Agricultural Information Network Reports

Japan Establishes Agricultural Export Expansion Strategy – [link](#)

On November 30, the Government of Japan approved the Export Expansion Action Strategy for Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery Products, and Food with the stated goal to increase profits for businesses in these sectors. To achieve the overall export targets for these products of two trillion yen (US\$19 billion) in 2025 and five trillion yen (US\$48 billion) in 2030, the strategy identifies 27 products with export growth potential and outlines a course of action for increasing exports. In 2019, Japan's total exports of agricultural and related products totaled 912 billion yen (US\$8.8 billion). The Government of Japan did not identify new, dedicated funding to support this effort within the strategy document, which calls for a market driven approach and greater collaboration throughout the supply chain and across government.

Colombia Issues New Sodium Regulation for Processed Foods – [link](#)

On November 9, 2020, Colombia's Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MINHEALTH) issued Resolution 2013, a regulation that sets mandatory maximum sodium content limits for 59 processed food categories ranging from snacks to processed meats and dairy products. Further, Resolution 2013 introduces a new conformity certificate requirement and reduction goals that will start going into effect in November 2022. This report includes the original regulation and an English translation

USJTA TRQs Remain Underutilized in First Half of JFY 2020 – [link](#)

The U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement (USJTA), which entered into force on January 1, 2020, improved market access for U.S. products through the creation of tariff-rate quotas (TRQs) for food wheat, wheat products, malt, processed cheese, whey, glucose and fructose, potato starch, corn starch, and inulin. However, with exception of food wheat, fill rates for these TRQs remained low in the first half of Japanese Fiscal Year (JFY) 2020. This report provides the latest data on TRQ allocation and fill rates as well as a brief overview of the TRQ application process.

US Exports to Mexico Down on Reduced Demand Due to COVID 19 Effects - [link](#)

In fiscal year 2020 (October 2019-September 2020), total U.S. agricultural exports to Mexico declined by five percent to \$18.1 billion from the previous fiscal year. Although Mexico remained one of the top three importers of U.S. agricultural, food and forest products by value, the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the entire supply chain in both the U.S. and Mexico. The first six months of FY 2020 showed steady bilateral trade, but April-September showed reductions in key categories of U.S. exports. Reductions in FY 2020 exports were most observed in animal proteins in response to preference for lower priced proteins, and closures or reduced capacities in the hotel, restaurant, and institutional sector.

Japan Determines Genome Edited Tomato Will Not be Regulated as GE – [link](#)

On December 11, Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare (MHLW) and Ministry of Agriculture,



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
2811 Agriculture Drive, P.O. Box 8911, Madison, 53708-8911

Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) announced their determination that a genome edited tomato will not be regulated as a genetically engineered (GE) product. This is the first product to complete either ministry's voluntary notification process for verification of whether a genome edited product should be regulated as a GE product. The tomato was developed in Japan by a joint venture between a public university and a private company and is intended for commercial distribution. The developer used CRISPR-Cas9 technology to increase the gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) content in the tomato.

Two cases of HPAI on duck farms in France threatening the foie gras industry - [link](#)

The French Government announced this week that ducks on two farms in southwestern France were infected with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). All birds on both farms were culled. Experts believe that the H5N8 virus is likely found throughout France in wild geese, ducks and swans. The new outbreak is a threat to the French foie gras sector, already suffering from the COVID-19 lockdown and closure of restaurants. The 2017 HPAI outbreak cost the sector \$300 million.

USDA Economic Research Service

Prospects for Growth in U.S. Dairy Exports to Southeast Asia - [link](#)

Food demand in Southeast Asia (SEA) is expected to grow in the coming decades, creating opportunities for exporters of dairy products. This study examines the prospects for growth of U.S. dairy exports to the SEA region, and how the U.S. potential to gain or lose market share varies from one Southeast Asian country to another and among products.